(b) whether Government have any policy of change of Zonal Centre of airways of the North-Eastern States at Guwahati in place of the present Zonal Centre at Calcutta; and

(c) if so, by when the Zonal Centre will be changed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A Task Force has been constituted to examine and make recommendations for improving airport infrastructure and for better air links in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

**Appointment of pilots in Air India**

1411. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointments of nearly 35 pilots have been made in Air India overlooking the merits of better candidates; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these appointed pilots are direct relations of top Air India officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The procedure for selection of Trainee pilots consists of written test followed by personal interview and at no stage of selection procedure, merit was overlooked. The details of Co-pilots/Trainee Pilots appointed during last three years are as under:—

| Year | No. of Co-Pilots recruited | No. of Trainee Pilots recruited |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 13 | 13 |
| 1997 | 3 | 36 |
| 1998 | 1 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 17 | 71 |

(b) Out of the above recruited pilots following number of trainee pilots are related to Air India officials:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | — | 2 |
| 1997 | — | 8 |
| 1998 | — | 1 |

**Corporatisation of airports**

1412. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1999 and state the benefit to the travelling public by corporatising five airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Corporatisation will bring about effective changes in the management and contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments needed to improve the standards of service/ facilities, to be travelling public.

**Proposed private investment in Pawan Hans Ltd.**

1413. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to off-load its 78% equity in Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. to a strategic investor as per recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.